

2008 Spring Turkey

Montana Hunting Regulations



These regulations are adopted under the authority granted to the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission (FWPC) per MCA 87-1-301, and are valid March 1, 2008 through February 28, 2009. Final adoption by the FWPC will be on February 20, 2008. The FWPC reserves the authority to amend the seasons, limits and regulations herein if deemed necessary for wildlife management purposes. M. Jeff Hagener, Director.

State and Federal laws, Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or disability. Anyone believing he or she has been discriminated against (as described above) in any Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) program, activity, or facility may write to FWP Personnel Office, 1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701 or the office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Licenses

The following licenses are available at all FWP offices, FWP website and most FWP license providers throughout the state.

License	Requirements	Cost
Conservation	Required Prerequisite - Montana residents 12-14 years of age, 62 years of age and older, or holders of a Disabled Resident conservation License, need only the conversation license and a valid turkey license to hunt turkey.	\$8 Resident \$10 Nonresident
Hunting Access Enhancement Fee	Required prerequisite - Annual fee charged at the time the hunter purchases his/her first hunting license.	\$2 Resident \$10 Nonresident
Spring Turkey	Available to resident and nonresident conservation license holders 12 years of age or older. Persons under 12 years of age may not hunt turkey.	\$6.50 Resident \$115 Nonresident OR \$55 to Nonresident holders of an upland game bird license.
Upland Game Bird	Required prerequisite for residents.	\$7.50 Resident \$110 Nonresident
Resident Youth Upland Game Bird	Available to resident conservation license holders 15-17 years of age.	\$3 Resident Only
Special Permits	Applications must be postmarked by March 15.	\$5 Resident \$5 Nonresident

Visit Our Website – fwp.mt.gov

General Regulations

These regulations apply to all legally described spring male turkey hunting districts and areas.

Hunter Education – All persons born after January 1, 1985, are required to provide proof of completion of a Montana hunter safety and education course or an approved hunter safety course from any other state or province prior to applying for or purchasing a hunting license.

Limit – The total combined harvest limit of the spring and fall seasons cannot exceed two turkeys per hunter. For example, if you kill two turkeys during the spring season, you may not hunt turkey during the fall season. To harvest two turkeys during the spring season, hunters must use their fall turkey tag in administrative Region 7. To harvest two turkeys during the fall season, hunters must still possess the spring turkey tag and use this tag in administrative Region 7.

Turkey hunters may use one of the following options to harvest a turkey during the spring season:

- harvest one male turkey in a general hunting area, or a special permit area or administrative Region 7; or
- harvest two male turkeys in administrative Region 7; or
- harvest one male turkey in a general hunting area or a special permit area and one male turkey in administrative Region 7.

Means of Taking – Wild Turkey may be taken with:

- a shotgun not larger than a ten guage
- a long, recurve or compound bow and arrow

The following methods or devices are prohibited in taking game birds and animals:

- The use of poisonous, explosive, or deleterious substances on or in any bullet, projectile or arrow is prohibited.
- The possession of firearms with silencers while afield is illegal.

Private Land Access – Montana law requires permission for all hunting on private land. Even if the land is not posted, hunters must have permission from the landowner, lessee, or their agent before hunting on private property. Landowners may grant permission face-to-face, over the phone, in writing, or by posting signs that explain the type of hunting allowed—game species or sex—and under what conditions. Visit FWP's website for the Interactive Hunt Planner or visit nris.mt.gov/gis for assistance with land ownership.

Railroad Access – Railroad right-of-ways are private property and may not be hunted without permission.

State School Trust Lands Recreational Use License –

- The \$10 fee of the past has been replaced by a \$2 addition to the conservation license, which allows hunters, anglers and trappers access to all legally accessible state school trust lands. Trappers will still need to secure a "Special State Lands Recreational Use License" from DNRC at no additional charge.
- Other recreational activities such as hiking and bird watching still require the \$10 fee. These activities cannot, by Federal statute, be covered by the conservation license. Such a diversion could jeopardize \$12 million in federal funds Montana receives annually for fish and wildlife management.

Indian Reservations – Hunters hunting on Indian reservations should check Indian reservation regulations because allowable species, season dates, shooting hours and/or bag limits may differ from state regulations.

Checking Stations – All hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from hunting and fishing areas, even if they have no game or fish to be checked.

Tagging – Immediately after harvesting a wild turkey, cut out the proper month and first and second digits of the day from the license and affix the license to the turkey so it remains secure and visible at all times.

Evidence of Sex – No person shall transport within the state any turkey taken during the spring turkey gobbler season unless one leg and foot are left naturally attached for evidence of sex. The leg and foot shall remain attached at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the permanent residence of the possessor.

Wanton Waste – It is illegal to waste any part of any game animal, game bird, or game fish suitable for food. Following are turkey parts suitable for food: breasts, thighs and wings.

It is unlawful for anyone to hunt or attempt to hunt any game animal or game bird:

- from any self propelled (that is, motorized) or drawn vehicle;
- on, from, or across any public highway or the shoulder, berm, or barrow pit right-of-way of any public highway (the entire width between the boundary lines of every publicly maintained way when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, MCA 61-1-202) in the state of Montana; or
- by the aid or with the use of any set gun, jacklight, spotlight or other artificial light, trap, snare, salt lick, or bait (MCA 87-3-101). (Baiting shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of corn, wheat, or other grain or food sources so as to constitute a lure or attraction. Nothing shall prohibit the taking of birds over standing crops or harvested cropland or grains scattered as a result of agricultural harvesting.)

Recorded Animal or Bird Sounds – It is unlawful to use any recorded or electrically amplified bird or animal calls, sounds or imitations of bird or animal calls or sounds to assist in the hunting, taking, killing or capturing of any wildlife except predatory animals (MCA 87-3-108).

Two-way Communication – Two-way communication may not be used to:

- Hunt game animals or upland game birds, migratory birds or furbearers as defined in MCA 87-2-101 (8) "Hunt" means to "pursue, shoot, wound, kill, chase, lure, possess or capture".
- Avoid game checking stations, FWP enforcement personnel, or to facilitate illegal activity.

Hunting Hours – One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Complete sunrise/sunset tables as adopted by the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission are on the last page of these regulations.

Fish, Wildlife & Parks Offices

State Headquarters

MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E 6th Avenue
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-2535

Telephone Device for the Deaf
(406) 444-1200

Region 1

490 N Meridian Rd
Kalispell, MT 59904
(406) 752-5501

Region 2

3201 Spurgin Rd
Missoula, MT 59804
(406) 542-5500

Region 3

1400 South 19th Ave
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 994-4042

Helena Area Res Office

(HARO)
930 Custer Ave W
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 495-3260

Butte Area Res Office

(BARO)
1820 Meadowlark Ln
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 494-1953

Region 4

4600 Giant Springs Rd
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5840

Lewistown Area Res Office

(LARO)
215 W Aztec Dr
PO Box 938
Lewistown, MT 59457
(406) 538-4658

Region 5

2300 Lake Elmo Dr
Billings, MT 59105
(406) 247-2940

Region 6

54078 US Hwy 2 W
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-3700

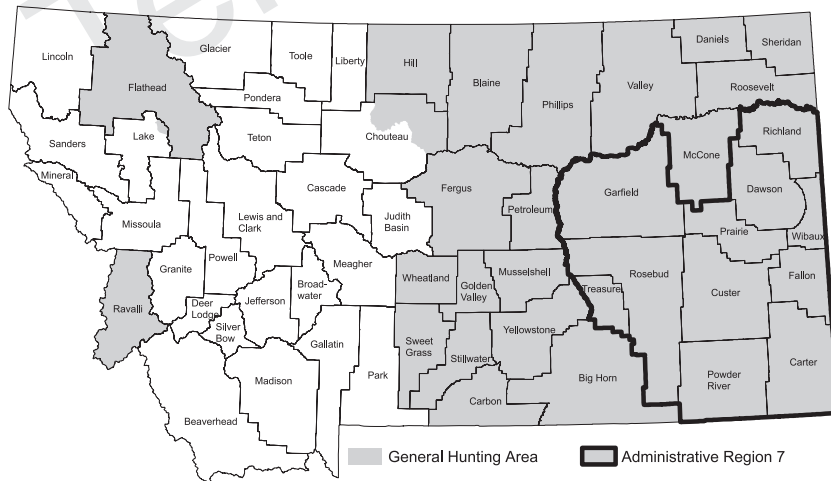
Havre Area Res Office

(HvARO)
2165 Hwy 2 East
Havre, MT 59501
(406) 265-6177

Region 7

Industrial Site West
PO Box 1630
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 234-0900

General Hunting District Map



Statewide General Hunting Areas

Open to all hunters who hold a valid Turkey License for the appropriate season.

General Hunting Areas (includes Administrative Region 7)

• Apr 07 - May 20 - Male Turkey Spring Statewide Season.

Statewide General Hunting Areas

General Hunting Areas include: Flathead, small portion of Lake, and Ravalli counties. The following counties or portion of counties and all counties lying east of these: Hill, portion of Chouteau, Fergus, Wheatland, Sweet Grass, Stillwater, Carbon counties.

Administrative Region 7 includes: Garfield, Rosebud, Treasure, Prairie, Custer, Powder River, Richland, Dawson, Wibaux, Fallon and Carter counties.

Flathead and small portion of Lake Counties: All of Flathead County and that portion of Lake County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning on the shoreline of Flathead Lake at the junction of the Flathead County Line, then easterly along the county line to the Swan Divide, then southerly along said divide to USFS Trail 10 in Section 36, T26N, R18W, then southwesterly along said trail to USFS Road 9508 (Six Mile Road,) then southerly along said road to Route 83, then southerly along said route to USFS Road 10229 (Porcupine Creek Road), then westerly and southerly along said road to the south boundary of T26N, the 6th Standard Parallel North, then west along said township line to the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary, then north and west along said boundary to the east shore of Flathead Lake, then north along the shore of said lake to the Flathead County line, the point of beginning.

Note: Turkey are found primarily on private land and access is limited and difficult.

Portion of Chouteau County: north of the Missouri River and east of the Marias River.

Special Permit Application Process

- **Applicants may apply for only one special spring male turkey permit and in only one area of the state.**
- Hunters must possess a special spring male turkey permit, in conjunction with their valid spring turkey license, to hunt in special permit hunting areas.
- The special spring male turkey permit allows the hunter to hunt in the described area during the time period specified on the permit. Permit quotas listed in these regulations are tentative for 2007.
- Applicants must hold a 2007 Conservation License at the time of applying for a special permit.

Hunters may apply for a spring turkey permit:

- online at fwp.mt.gov no later than 11:45 p.m. MDT on Thursday, March 15, 2007, or
- over-the-counter at any FWP regional office, FWP area office, and/or the Helena Headquarters, or
- by mail. Applications must include the \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee and must be received by FWP no later than 5 p.m. March 15 of the current year, to be eligible for the drawing. Applications are available at all FWP license providers or may be downloaded from the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov.

Successful applicants will be notified by mail and will be required to purchase a valid spring turkey license before hunting.

Special Permit Hunting Areas

Region 1

To apply in writing, send a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee to MFW&P, Attn: Turkey Drawing, 490 N Meridian Rd, Kalispell, MT 59901. Applicants must apply for either Lincoln county or Portion of Sanders county.

-----Lincoln County -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

182-20: 400 permits. Lincoln County

- Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

-----Portion of Sanders County -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

183-20: 300 permits. West Clark Fork Area

- Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

183-21: 10 permits. Valid in east portion of Sanders county.

- Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

West Clark Fork Area: Legal description not available at time of this printing. Copy will be presented at the February Commission meeting.

Portion of Sanders County: Permits valid only in that portion of Sanders County lying within the following described boundary: Beginning where the Sanders-Mineral County line meets the Idaho border, then easterly along said line to Greenwood Hill, then northerly along the divide to Penrose Peak, Cherry Peak and Eddy Mountain, then northwesterly down ridge to Clark Fork River and mouth of Thompson River, then northeasterly up said river to the West Fork of the Thompson River, then up said fork to Four Lakes Creek, then westerly up said creek to the North Fork of Four Lakes Creek, then northwesterly up said fork to USFS Road 7671 and USFS Trail 437, then westerly up said trail to USFS Trail 450, then northerly on said trail to Mount Headley, then northerly along the divide between Graves Creek and West Fork of Fishtrap Creek to the Vermillion River Divide, then northerly along the Vermillion-Thompson River Divide to the Sanders-Lincoln County line, then westerly along said line to the Idaho border, then south and southeasterly along said border to the Sanders-Mineral County line, the point of beginning.

Region 2

To apply in writing, send a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee to MFW&P, Attn: Turkey Drawing, 3201 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804. Applicants must apply for either Granite and Powell counties, Mineral county or Missoula county.

-----Portion of Granite County and Powell County -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

295-20: 5 permits. Powell and portion of Granite Counties

- Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

Granite County North Portion: ONLY that portion of Granite County that is NORTH of the following described line shall be open to the hunting of turkeys during the spring gobbler season: Beginning at Cleveland Mountain and the head of Welcome Creek, then southeast down said creek to Rock Creek, then north along Rock Creek to its junction with Brewster Creek, then easterly along said creek to Sliderock Mountain and the head of Eightmile Creek, then easterly along said creek to its junction with the 500 KV Bonneville Power Line, then southeast along said power line to the Granite-Powell County line.

-----Mineral County -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

282-20: 25 permits. Mineral County

- Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

Portion of Mineral County Closed to Turkey Hunting: Beginning at the confluence of Fish Creek and the Clark Fork River, then easterly along said River to the Petty Creek Road (#489), then southerly along said road to its junction with the West Fork Petty Creek Road (#22), then westerly along said road to its junction with the Deer Creek Road (#7704) near Deer Peak, then westerly along said road to its junction with the Fish Creek Road (#343), then northerly along said road to its junction with the North Fork Fish Creek Road (#7750), then westerly along said road to its junction with the Trail Creek Road (#341), then northerly along said road to the Rivulet Road (#344), then easterly along said road to Fish Creek, then northerly along said creek to its confluence with the Clark Fork River, the point of beginning.

-----Missoula County -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

283-20: 50 permits. Missoula County

- Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

283-21: 5 permits. Missoula County. Only youth ages 12-14.

- Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey. Only youth ages 12-14.

Region 3

To apply in writing, send a \$5 nonrefundable drawing fee to MFW&P Attn: Turkey Drawing, 1400 South 19th, Bozeman, MT 59718. Applicants must apply for either Lewis & Clark and Broadwater counties, Gallatin county and Portion of Madison county, Park county or Region 3 counties.

-----Lewis & Clark and Broadwater Counties -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

365-20: 20 permits. Valid in Lewis & Clark and Broadwater counties.

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

365-21: 2 permits. Valid in Lewis & Clark and Broadwater counties. Only youth ages 12-15.

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

-----Gallatin County and Portion of Madison County -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

375-20: 5 permits. Valid in Gallatin county and Madison county east of Madison River.

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

375-21: 2 permits. Valid in Gallatin county and Madison county east of Madison River. Only youth ages 12-15.

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

-----Park County -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

385-20: 20 permits. Park County

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

385-21: 2 permits. Park County. Only youth ages 12-15.

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

-----Region 3 Counties -----

Special Permit Spring. Drawing Only. Apply by Mar 15.

395-20: 15 permits. Beaverhead, Silver Bow, Jefferson counties and Madison county west of Madison River.

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

395-21: 2 permits. Beaverhead, Silver Bow, Jefferson counties and Madison county west of Madison River. Only youth ages 12-15.

• Apr 12 - May 18 - Male Turkey.

Defensive Turkey Hunting Tactics

A safe turkey hunter, like a safe driver, is defensive minded. Below are some tips to consider.

- Select the largest stump, blow-down, tree-trunk, or rock to place your back against when calling; a hunter is more likely to spot another hunter moving to the front or side than from behind.
- Eliminate the colors white, red, black and blue from your hunting outfit; this includes handkerchiefs, socks, underwear, etc.
- Select your calling spot in open timber rather than thick brush; eliminating movement is a key to success, not concealment.
- In areas of high hunter concentrations, wear blaze orange when walking to and from your vehicle; this is also a good idea when carrying a bird out of the woods.
- Be discreet when imitating the sound of a gobbling turkey.
- When songbirds, crows or your turkey shuts up--look out; there's a good chance another hunter is moving in on your bird.
- Never move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter of your presence; remain still, cough or holler.

ZONE 1

Day	Apr		May	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	7:14	8:06	6:20	8:47
02	7:12	8:07	6:18	8:48
03	7:10	8:09	6:17	8:50
04	7:08	8:10	6:15	8:51
05	7:06	8:12	6:14	8:52
06	7:04	8:13	6:12	8:54
07	7:03	8:14	6:11	8:55
08	7:01	8:16	6:10	8:56
09	6:59	8:17	6:08	8:57
10	6:57	8:18	6:07	8:59
11	6:55	8:20	6:05	9:00
12	6:53	8:21	6:04	9:01
13	6:51	8:22	6:03	9:03
14	6:49	8:24	6:02	9:04
15	6:47	8:25	6:00	9:05
16	6:46	8:27	5:59	9:06
17	6:44	8:28	5:58	9:07
18	6:42	8:29	5:57	9:09
19	6:40	8:31	5:56	9:10
20	6:38	8:32	5:55	9:11
21	6:37	8:33	5:54	9:12
22	6:35	8:35	5:53	9:13
23	6:33	8:36	5:52	9:14
24	6:31	8:37	5:51	9:15
25	6:30	8:39	5:50	9:16
26	6:28	8:40	5:49	9:17
27	6:26	8:42	5:49	9:18
28	6:25	8:43	5:48	9:19
29	6:23	8:44	5:47	9:20
30	6:22	8:46	5:46	9:21
31			5:46	9:22

ZONE 3

Day	Apr		May	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	6:56	7:48	6:01	8:29
02	6:54	7:49	6:00	8:31
03	6:52	7:51	5:58	8:32
04	6:50	7:52	5:57	8:33
05	6:48	7:53	5:55	8:35
06	6:46	7:55	5:54	8:36
07	6:44	7:56	5:52	8:37
08	6:42	7:58	5:51	8:39
09	6:40	7:59	5:49	8:40
10	6:38	8:00	5:48	8:41
11	6:36	8:02	5:47	8:42
12	6:35	8:03	5:45	8:44
13	6:33	8:04	5:44	8:45
14	6:31	8:06	5:43	8:46
15	6:29	8:07	5:42	8:47
16	6:27	8:09	5:40	8:49
17	6:25	8:10	5:39	8:50
18	6:23	8:11	5:38	8:51
19	6:22	8:13	5:37	8:52
20	6:20	8:14	5:36	8:53
21	6:18	8:15	5:35	8:55
22	6:16	8:17	5:34	8:56
23	6:14	8:18	5:33	8:57
24	6:13	8:20	5:32	8:58
25	6:11	8:21	5:31	8:59
26	6:09	8:22	5:30	9:00
27	6:08	8:24	5:29	9:01
28	6:06	8:25	5:29	9:02
29	6:04	8:26	5:28	9:03
30	6:03	8:28	5:27	9:04
31			5:27	9:05

2007 Sunrise-Sunset Tables For Determining Hunting Hours

These tables, including adjustments for daylight savings time, are the official sunrise-sunset tables adopted by the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission for spring turkey hunting in Montana. **(Do not utilize from other sources).**

**ZONE 1**

INCLUDES: Flathead, Granite, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli and Sanders Counties

ZONE 2

INCLUDES: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Cascade, Chouteau, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Glacier, Hill, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Madison, Meagher, Park, Pondera, Powell, Silver Bow, Teton and Toole Counties.

ZONE 3

INCLUDES: Big Horn, Blaine, Carbon, Fergus, Golden Valley, Judith Basin, Musselshell, Petroleum, Phillips, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Wheatland and Yellowstone Counties

ZONE 4

INCLUDES: Carter, Custer, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux Counties

ZONE 2

Day	Apr		May	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	7:07	7:58	6:13	8:38
02	7:05	7:59	6:11	8:40
03	7:03	8:01	6:10	8:41
04	7:01	8:02	6:08	8:42
05	6:59	8:03	6:07	8:44
06	6:57	8:05	6:05	8:45
07	6:55	8:06	6:04	8:46
08	6:53	8:07	6:02	8:48
09	6:51	8:09	6:01	8:49
10	6:49	8:10	6:00	8:50
11	6:47	8:11	5:58	8:51
12	6:46	8:13	5:57	8:53
13	6:44	8:14	5:56	8:54
14	6:42	8:16	5:55	8:55
15	6:40	8:17	5:54	8:56
16	6:38	8:18	5:52	8:57
17	6:36	8:20	5:51	8:59
18	6:35	8:21	5:50	9:00
19	6:33	8:22	5:49	9:01
20	6:31	8:24	5:48	9:02
21	6:29	8:25	5:47	9:03
22	6:28	8:26	5:46	9:04
23	6:26	8:28	5:45	9:05
24	6:24	8:29	5:44	9:06
25	6:22	8:30	5:43	9:08
26	6:21	8:32	5:42	9:09
27	6:19	8:33	5:42	9:10
28	6:18	8:34	5:41	9:11
29	6:16	8:36	5:40	9:12
30	6:14	8:37	5:40	9:12
31			5:39	9:13

ZONE 4

Day	Apr		May	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
01	6:42	7:33	5:49	8:13
02	6:40	7:34	5:47	8:14
03	6:38	7:36	5:45	8:16
04	6:36	7:37	5:44	8:17
05	6:34	7:38	5:43	8:18
06	6:32	7:40	5:41	8:20
07	6:30	7:41	5:40	8:21
08	6:29	7:42	5:38	8:22
09	6:27	7:44	5:37	8:23
10	6:25	7:45	5:36	8:25
11	6:23	7:46	5:34	8:26
12	6:21	7:48	5:33	8:27
13	6:19	7:49	5:32	8:28
14	6:17	7:50	5:31	8:30
15	6:16	7:52	5:29	8:31
16	6:14	7:53	5:28	8:32
17	6:12	7:54	5:27	8:33
18	6:10	7:56	5:26	8:34
19	6:08	7:57	5:25	8:36
20	6:07	7:58	5:24	8:37
21	6:05	8:00	5:23	8:38
22	6:03	8:01	5:22	8:39
23	6:02	8:02	5:21	8:40
24	6:00	8:04	5:20	8:41
25	5:58	8:05	5:19	8:42
26	5:56	8:06	5:18	8:43
27	5:55	8:08	5:18	8:44
28	5:53	8:09	5:17	8:45
29	5:52	8:10	5:16	8:46
30	5:50	8:12	5:15	8:47
31			5:15	8:48



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

1420 East Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59520-0701
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